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BOROUGH OF BRACKLEY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1954



ARTHUR LUCAS,
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

BOROUGH OF BRACKLEY.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for
the Year 1954.

To The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors
of the Borough of Brackley.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the Year 1954.

The Vital Statistics are satisfactory except that there were three infant deaths under one year due to Prematurity; this perhaps points a moral in that these may have been preventable if the mothers had attended an ante-natal clinic for advice etc.

The water supply in the Borough is now adequate as a reserve supply is now available from the Bucks Water Board so that no further crisis should arise as regards shortage of water.

Regarding housing, the Borough has now reached the point where if no industries are attracted to Brackley there may be a surplus of Council houses should some of the tenants move nearer their employment.

Again I thank Mr. Morgan your Sanitary Inspector and the Public Health Committee for their interest in any matter brought up during the year.

Your obedient Servant

Arthur Lucas, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

September 1955

Public Health Committee, December 1954

Councillor L.S.Coles, Chairman, Alderman C. Pether, Councillor
Miss E.M. Traneker, Vice Chairman, Councillors G.C. Hodges, E.G.
Lovegrove, G. Law, W.S. Pope, B. Sykes

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health: Arthur Lucas, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.,
Also holds appointments of:

Medical Officer of Health, Brackley Rural District Council

Medical Officer of Health, Towcester Rural District Council

Medical Officer of Health, Northampton Rural District Council

Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Northamptonshire County
Council and Assistant County School Medical Officer.

Sanitary Inspector: Clifford Morgan, C.R.S.I., who also holds the
appointment of Borough Surveyor.

Summary of Vital Statistics, 1954.

Area of Borough (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,685
Population (estimated mid-1954)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,980
Number of inhabited houses, end of 1954	...	...	...	...	...	...	947
Rateable Value of Borough	...	...	...	...	...	...	£14,671
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£58

Extract from Vital Statistics for the year

<u>Live Births:</u>				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Eng. & Wales</u>
Legitimate...	...	...	...	22	26	48	
Illegitimate	2	1	3	
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population:						17.1	15.2



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Still-births: One still-birth was recorded during the year under review.
This equivalent to a still-birth-rate per 1,000 (live and still-births) of 19.2 The rate for the administrative County is 22.29 and that for England and Wales was 23.4.

	Male	Female	Total
<u>Deaths</u> (all causes)...	15	23	38

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population: 12.8 Eng.& Wales: 11.3

Deaths from Puerperal causes:-

Puerperal sepsis...	nil
Other Puerperal causes...	nil

Infant Mortality:

Deaths of infants under one year ... 3
This is equivalent to an infant mortality rate of 58.8 per 1,000 live births.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)...	6
Deaths from Measles ...	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough ...	nil
Deaths from Diarrhoeas (under 2 years of age) ...	nil
Deaths from Pregnancy, child-birth or abortion ...	nil

Area: There has been no change in the administrative area of the Borough which remains at 1,685 acres.

Population: The resident mid-year population of the Borough as estimated by the Registrar-General was 2,980, and the vital statistics are based on this figure. The estimated population is higher by 45 than that for the year 1953. The natural increase in population, that is the increase of births over deaths was 13.

Deaths: The total number of deaths assigned to the Borough by the Registrar-General, after adjusting for inward and outward transferable deaths is 38. The death-rate, based on the mid-year estimated population is 12.8 as compared with 11.04 for the administrative County of Northamptonshire and 11.3 for England and Wales.

A table giving a list of the causes of death in the Borough classified under the various causes is given on page 3.

Births The number of births which occurred in the Borough during the year was 51. This gives a birth-rate of 17.1 The rate of the administrative County was 16.20 and that for England and Wales was 15.2.

Infant Mortality: There were 3 infant deaths under one year recorded during the year This is equivalent to an infant mortality rate of 58.8 The rate for the County was 23.49 and that for England and Wales, 25.5

Maternal Mortality: It is again gratifying to record that no death occurred during the year from causes associated with child-birth

The following table gives the birth-rate, death-rate and infant mortality rate for the Borough, the administrative County of Northamptonshire and England and Wales for the past five years:-

Year	Birth-rate			Death-rate			Infant Mortality-rate		
	Brackley Borough	Northampton-shire	England & Wales	Brackley Borough	Northampton Shire	England & Wales	Brackley Borough	Northampton shire	England & Wales
1950	20.34	15.71	15.8	14.2	12.01	11.60	37.7	29 .53	29.8
1951	17.6	15.57	15.50	13.0	12.13	12 .5	nil	25.26	29.60
1952	15.6	15.50	15.3	10.4	11.04	11.3	22.2	24.96	27.6
1953	17.0	16.16	15.50	10.2	11.51	11.40	nil	24.70	26.80
1954	17.1	16.20	15.2	12.8	11.04	11.3	58.8	23.49	25.5

Registered Causes of Death

Causes								Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
2	Tuberculosis, other forms...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
3	Syphilitic disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
4	Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
5	Whooping Cough..	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
6	Meningococcal infections ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
7	Acute Poliomyelitis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
8	Measles...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
9	Other infective & parasitic diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast, ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus..	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	2	2
14	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
16	Diabetes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	6
18	Coronary disease, angina ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
19	Hypertension with heart disease...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
20	Other heart disease...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	6	11
21	Other circulatory disease...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
22	Influenza...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
23	Pneumonia...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
24	Bronchitis..	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
25	Other disease of respiratory system ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
28	Nephritis and nephrosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
29	Hyperplasia of prostate ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
31	Congenital malformations ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases..	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	7
33	Motor vehicle accidents ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
34	All other accidents ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
35	Suicide ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
36	Homicide and operations of war ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
All causes .								15	23	38

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Laboratory Facilities: The examination of pathological specimens and samples of water is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Oxford. The service is free of charge and Medical Practitioners in the area submit specimens direct to the Laboratory.

Ambulance Facilities: Infectious disease cases requiring hospital treatment are removed to the Isolation Hospital, Northampton.

The St. John Ambulance Brigade Service was maintained during the year under review. The Service operates under contract with the Hospital Management Authority and was available for the removal to Hospital of surgical and non-infectious cases. The service, which is available by day and night is free and is a great asset to residents of the Borough.

Treatment Centres and Clinics: The infant Welfare Clinic continued to operate during the year and sessions were held on the second Thursday in every month at the Women's Institute, Manor Road. Orthopaedic Clinics, Vision Clinics and Dental Clinics for school children which are organised by the County Council continued to operate during the year under review. Preventive and after-care services for tuberculous cases are administered by the County Council.

Nursing in the Home: The County Council operate a complete nursing service within the area and "Home Helps" are on call in connection with infirm or chronic cases treated at home.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

Water Supply: The supply of water to the Borough is from two deep wells with fifteen inch bore-holes at the bottom of each. Two submersible electric pumps and an oil engine comprise the plant used to raise the water to two storage tanks of 120,000 and 12,000 gallons capacity respectively. One of the wells was not used during the year as continued pumping reduced the level of the water below the suction of the oil engine pump. The water is chlorinated but not filtered and samples submitted regularly to the Public Health Laboratory during the year showed that it was of high bacterial purity.

The laying of a supplementary main from the Bucks Water Board system as an emergency supply to which I referred in my Report for 1953, was completed early during the year under review. In order not to unduly reduce the head level of water in the borehole, water from the emergency supply was used from June to November. The daily gallonage used from this source during these months was as follows:- June, 21,000, July 13,000, August 5,000, September 12,000, October 10,000 and November 3,000.

If at any time the submersible pump has to be changed approximately 200 feet of rising main have to be lifted and dismantled. This involves a considerable amount of work, and during these emergencies the need of greater storage capacity is felt.

Sewage Disposal: The sewage disposal works comprising two filter beds, two sedimentation tanks, humas lagoons and electrical plant for lifting the level of one outfall sewer continued to function satisfactorily during the year. The sewerage of the Borough comprise 6", 9", 12" and 15" pipes. With the exception of twenty-two houses, in outlying parts of the district where levels will not permit connecting with the system, all premises are connected to the sewerage.

Rivers and Streams: No complaints were received regarding pollution of the River Ouse into which the effluent from the sewage disposal works discharges.

Camping Sites: There are no camping sites in the Borough.

Smoke Abatement: No action was found to be necessary in connection with smoke abatement.

Swimming Bath: The public swimming pool owned by the Council was in use during the year and was filled with water from the Council's mains. I feel that I must again say that I shall be glad to see the installation of a filtration and chlorination plant at this pool. Every effort is made by the addition of chloros to maintain a reasonable standard of purity but it is not practicable to mix the solution openly by hand in such a large volume of water as 60,000 gallons.

Eradication of Bed Bugs: No infestation by bed bugs was found during the year under review.

Public Cleansing: House refuse was collected weekly using direct labour and a Bantam Karrier refuse collecting vehicle fitted with sliding covers. One part of the Borough was covered on Thursdays and the other on Fridays.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. The provisions of this Act are operated by one of the Council's workmen and the Sanitary Inspector. Zinc phosphide with sausage rusk, and warfarin with oatmeal baits were used with good results.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING YEAR

Number of visits and inspections:-

Visits to slaughter-house...	...	...	...	186
Inspections of butchers' shops ..	...	...	...	18
Number of old drainages tested ...	...	...	...	12
Number of new drainages tested ...	...	...	...	34
Inspections of bakehouses ...	...	...	...	8
Inspections of meat hawkers' vans ...	...	...	...	6
Housing inspections ..	...	...	...	94
Inspections of fried fish shops ...	...	...	...	9
Inspections of other food shops .	...	...	...	43
Inspections in connection with rodent control				43
Number of minor infestations treated .				25
Inspections of factories & workshops .				28

SECTION D

HOUSING.

Legislation: The Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, came into force during the year under review; the provisions of the Act enable owners of controlled dwellings to increase rents provided they keep the property in good repair. The main object of the Act is to bring up to standard those houses which are structurally sound which have been neglected during the War and Post War years during which landlords were reluctant to bear heavy costs of carrying out repairs without being able to increase rents of their properties. Where formerly under the Rents Restrictions Acts increases in rents were allowed only for work carried out involving structural alterations which improved the houses, now under the new Act increases of 8 per cent of the amount spent on repairs can be added to the rents. Under the provisions of the Act tenants can exercise their right if the property is not kept in good repair by applying to the Local Authority for a certificate which while it is in force entitles them to withhold any increases in rent claimed by the landlord. During the year no applications were received for certificates under the Act.

Improvement Grants: Under the Housing Act, 1949 owners of dwelling houses may apply to the Local authority for a grant towards providing additional amenities in the houses, such as the provision of constant hot water and indoor sanitation etc., and the local authority may subject to the submission of plans and competitive tenders may give a grant towards the cost of the work. During the year no applications were received for grants,

Slum Clearance: Local Authorities are required to submit to the Ministry by August 1955 a return showing the total number of unfit houses in their area; the time required to demolish or otherwise deal with those houses and the number which can reasonably be dealt with during the first five years

During the year thirty Council houses were completed, 4 two-bedroomed and 26 three-bedroomed and there were 3 under construction at the end of the year. Four private enterprise houses were completed during the year and there were eight under construction at the end of the year.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:

- (1)(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)... ... 94
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... ... 126
- (2)(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 -
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation... ... -
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 25

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notice:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their Officers... 22

3. Action Under Statutory Powers during the Year:

(a) Proceedings under section 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... -

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners ... -

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... -

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... -

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners ... -

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... -

(c) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... -

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... -

4. Housing Act, 1936; Part 4 Overcrowding:

Number of serious cases of overcrowding in the area ... -

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply: The number of retailers in the Borough is 2; all milk retailed is produced outside the area.

Food & Drugs Act, 1938 Premises used for the manufacture or preparation of preserved foods were regularly inspected during the year and were found to be kept in a cleanly condition.

Food Shops: Shops where food is prepared for sale were inspected and found to be well maintained where cleanliness is concerned. Retailers continued to display notices requesting the public to refrain from taking dogs into their shops.

Meat and Other Foods: During the year under review decontrol of slaughtering took place and the requisitioned slaughter-house in the area formerly operated by the Ministry of Food was taken over by the Council. The Brackley Meat Company which was formed when slaughtering was decontrolled operated the Slaughter-house under the supervision of the Council

The numbers of animals slaughtered during the year were as follows:-

Cattle...	...	...	...	550
Sheep and lambs	...	...	...	3347
Claves...	...	...	...	220
Pigs	..	...	...	907

Regular inspections were made to the slaughter-house and upon inspection meat and offal weighing 8 tons 15 cwts 2 qrs 2 lbs were found to be diseased unfit for consumption and were voluntarily surrendered. Diseased meat and offal were regularly collected by a reputable merchant for further utilisation.

The following unsound foodstuffs were also voluntarily surrendered during the year:-

Pork chaps...	...	2 cwt 6 lbs.
Cheese	...	20 lbs
Brisket of beef	...	4 lb tin
Stewed steak	...	10 tins.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The Borough was remarkably free from infectious disease during the year only the two following cases being reported:-

Measles.	1
Meningococcal infection . . .	1

The patients made good recoveries and there were no deaths from infectious disease.

Vaccination and Immunisation

Details of vaccination and immunisation carried out in the Borough during the year are as follows:-

<u>Vaccination.</u>						<u>Total</u>
Under 1.	1.	2 - 4.	5 - 14	15 or over		
Primary...	14	-	1	-	7	22
Re-vaccination..	-	-	3	6		9

Diphtheria Immunisation

Under 1.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5 to 9	10 to 14	<u>Total</u>	<u>Booster</u>
7	4	-	-	-	1	1	13	7

Whooping Cough Immunisation

	Under 1.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5-9.	10-14.	<u>Total</u>
Whooping cough only	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Combined								
Diphtheria/Pertussis		12	8	1	-	1	1	23

* The combined diphtheria pertussis figures are included in the figures for diphtheria immunisation.

Number of Children who have completed a fullCourse of Diphtheria Immunisation

Age at 31.12.54 i.e, Born in year	Under 1 1954	1 1953	2 1952	3 1951	4 1950	5-9 1945- 1949	10-14 1940- 1944	<u>Total</u> Under 15.
Number immunised	3	20	33	32	47	153	127	415

Tuberculosis There were no new cases of Tuberculosis reported during the year. There was one death from non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The numbers of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year were as follows:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary...	3	7	10
Non-Pulmonary	2	1	3
	5	8	13

